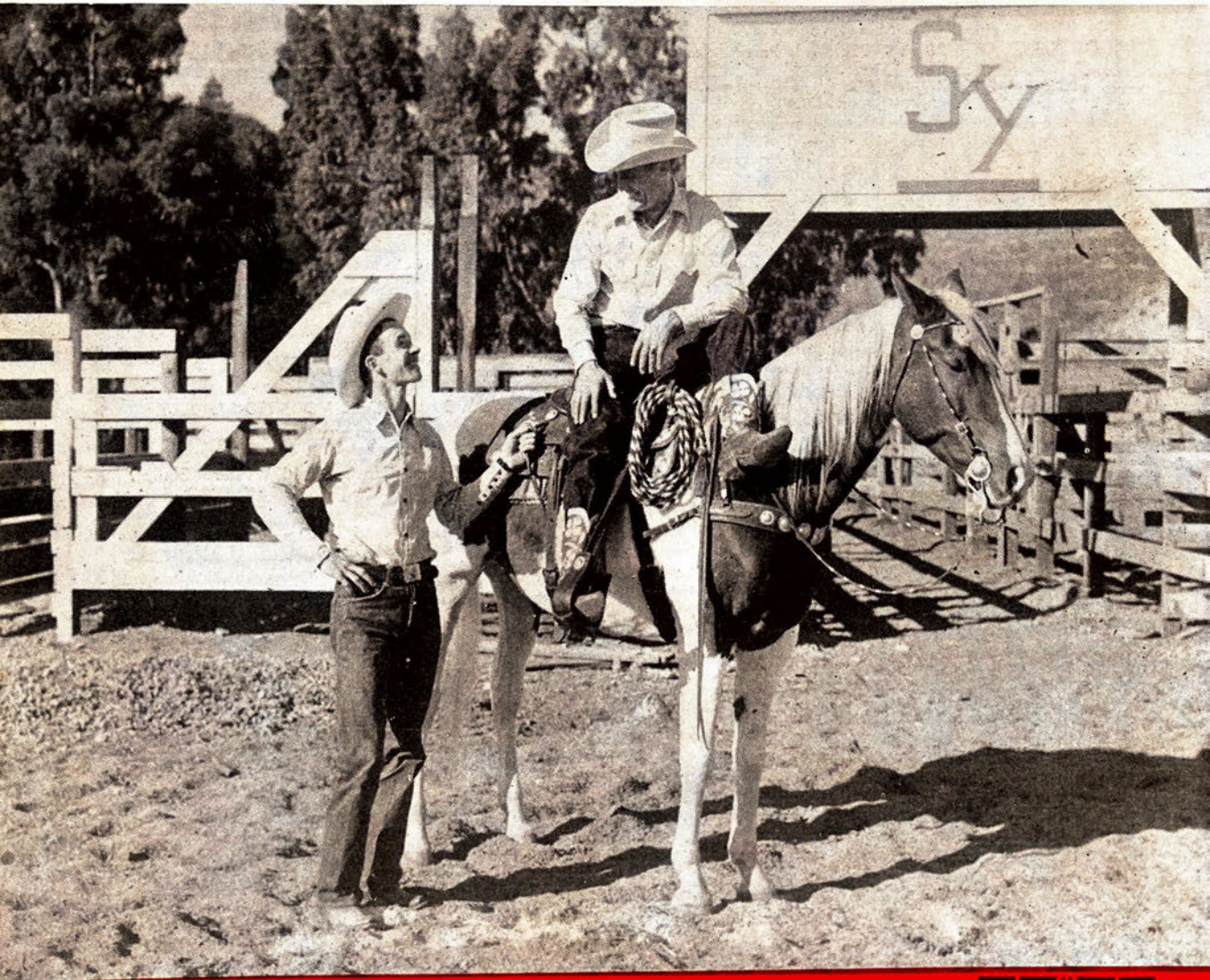
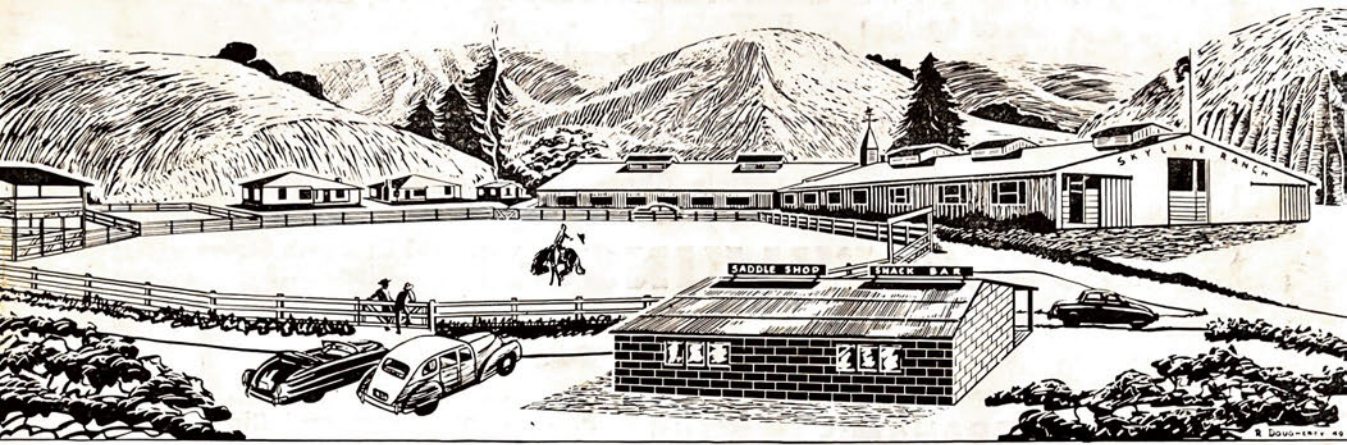




# The Trail Blazer

OFFICIAL ORGAN METROPOLITAN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION · OAKLAND, CALIF.



Jimmie Black

Stanley Cosca

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## SKYLINE RANCH

NOVEMBER . . . 1949

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VOL. XXV No. 21

November, 1949

## The Trail Blazer

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 Oakland, California

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All copy, both editorial and advertising to  
 be sent to the Managing Editor,  
 Edna G. Collins

**DEADLINE 15th OF THE MONTH**  
 All copy subject to editorial revision

## Editorial

### HELP WANTED

With the year rapidly drawing to a close, much remains to be accomplished as we prepare to say farewell to one administration and to greet the new. With this thought in mind it is necessary, not only to ask support of all of the members, but to expect it as well.

For sometime our association has ranked as the largest of its kind in the entire state. It is up to us to see that we retain that standing. If we do this it means that we must all strive for new members as we enter 1950. It has been the custom to sort of slide over signing up of new members until the annual membership drive. Why not eliminate the drive entirely this year and instead start out the new year with at least 1,000 members? This can be accomplished only if every one does his or her part. Talk up your association with everyone you meet. Interest them in the work that we do each year, in the trails improvements, and the plans for the future of the horse people in this locality. Get ready to stand behind your new membership chairman from the very start.

This year, too, we have a new selling point in our Juniors. Remember our Juniors of today are our senior members of tomorrow. Boys and girls with a hobby, especially if it is horses, find little time to get into trouble.

Another thing, our annual dinner dance is coming up December 2. Plan now to attend. Be there to vote for your new officers and to do your part in planning the program for the coming year.

Remember this—The Metropolitan Horsemen's Association needs you—and you need the association.

### M.H.A. OFFICERS

JIM MYERS	President
HEBER J. BROWN	Vice-President
WILLIS PRAY	Treasurer
MARY GALE	Secretary

6053 Chabot Rd., Oakland 18, OL. 2-2536

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

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### NEXT BOARD MEETING

Date: Thursday, Nov. 10  
 Time 8:00 P.M.  
 Place: Home of Jim Myers  
 4848 McDonell Avenue

### WHY DOESN'T SOME ONE TELL US THESE THINGS?

On the front page of the September issue we carried a picture of Bob Lorimer jumping Irish Lad, and we failed to find out more about the story.

It was brought to our attention that the horse is now owned by Buck Wilkinson, a new member of M.H.A., who purchased him in the summer of 1948. Lad and Buck are practically inseparable and take the trails almost daily. Lad is now boarded at the new Skyline Ranch where his owner has to stand for a lot of good natured kidding, being the only exclusive flat saddle rider at the barn.

We're sorry, Buck, and we promise not to slight you again.

# Membership News

## ANNUAL DINNER DANCE DEC. 2, TO OPEN HOLIDAY SEASON

The ballroom at the Moose City club, 1428 Alice street, will again be the scene of the annual dinner dance to be held Friday, December 2.

According to Clarence Simons, activities chairman, Mrs. Simons is serving as general chairman.

The evening will get underway with cocktails served in a reserved private lounge from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by a full course steak dinner at 7 p.m. Fish will be substituted if desired. Table reservations may be made in groups. Dancing to the music of Rod McCauley's orchestra will be from 9 to 1 a.m.

Tickets for the evening will be \$3.85 per person, with reservations closing on Friday, November 26.

### Mrs. Walling Ticket Chairman

Mrs. George Walling is chairman of the ticket committee and reservations should be made with her by calling KELlog 4-9468. Members of her committee include Floyd Jacobs, from the Aahmes Shrine Mounted Patrol; Bill Patten, Piedmont Stables; Louis Alberts, Pinto Ranch; Lloyd Donaldson, Miss Graham's Riding Academy; Ollie Curry, Wildwood Stables; Stoney Pierce, Western Stables.

Louis Larsen, the Round Up; Mrs. Althea Dorsey, Big Bear; Jean Finney, Green Barn Stables; Paul Brewer, Boots and Jeans club; Chris Hansen, Don and Ann's; Mrs. G. W. Riis, Redwood Heights Market; Mrs. Elsa Himmelman, the Lari-ettes; Richard Neves, Neves Stables; Mary Lou Hutton, Cressmont; Tiny Capriola, Arlington Heights Academy; Ted Talstrom, the Wagon Wheel Ranch; Bob Lorimer, Oakland Riding Academy.

Lew Helms, from the Helms Stables; James A. Myers, Alameda County Sheriff's posse; Jack Richards, Rancho Benito; Marian Medlin, Buckaroos of Hayward; Cliff Clark, Contra Costa Horsemen's Association; Eddie Martin, International Footprinters Association, and Stanley Cosca, the Skyline Ranch.

### Mrs. Myers Plans Decorations

Mrs. James Myers is serving as chairman of decorations. Her committee includes Mrs. Willis Pray, Mrs. Art Palmer, Mrs. Harry Menicucci, Miss Mary Lou Hutton, Mrs. Louis Alberts, Mrs. Jimmie Black, Mrs. John Currie, Mrs. Walling representing the M.H.A. Juniors.

Mrs. Heber Brown, Mrs. Bill Senecal, Mrs. Lillian Hoffman, Mrs. Richard Neves, Mrs. Bill Patten, Mrs. Joseph Stern, Mrs. Gus Himmelman, Mrs. Martin Murray, Mrs. Harold Cummings, Mrs. Paul Busch, and Mrs. Ray Theobald.

Publicity for the affair is in charge of George Walling.

Highlighting the evening will be the annual election of officers and every member is urged to be present.

**Dont forget your reservations must be made by November 26.**

### OUR COVER

Introducing the beautiful new Skyline Ranch and its owner, Stanley Cosca, on horseback, and the manager, Jimmie Black. A detailed story of the ranch is carried on page 7.



## FRED ANDERSON ELECTED PRESIDENT OF C.S.H.A.

Fred E. Anderson, of Oakland, past president of M. H. A. and a member of the Aahmes Shrine Mounted Patrol, was unanimously elected president for the coming year at the recent meeting of the California State Horsemen's association in Sacramento. Mr. Anderson served as vice president of Region 5 during 1949.



Fred Anderson

Immediately upon entering office Mr. Anderson named his assistants as Dr. Roger Daniels, of Sacramento, treasurer, and Ray Stone, secretary. Regional vice presidents include Joe Massone, Walnut Creek; Tony Costa, San Jose; Syd Grove, Healdsburg; Mrs. Merle Martinette, Chico; Owen O'Leary, Grass Valley; Dick Williams, Modesto; Ronny Stewart, San Fernando; Durward Lindner, Fresno; Lawrence Heinemann, Buena Park; Ralph Brown, San Diego, Cecil Evans, San Luis Obispo and Frank Bogert, Palm Springs. The 1959 convention was awarded to Palm Springs.

## Convention Well Attended

It was a wonderful convention, according to those in attendance, with all meetings well attended. Highlight was the grand parade, with evening events including entertainments, dancing and gymkhana events.

In championship events prizes were awarded to Aahmes Shrine Mounted Patrol of Oakland, third in ring spearing; Metropolitan Horsemen's Association, Oakland, second in calf roping; Metropolitan Horsemen's association Juniors, Oakland, fifth in relay teams.

Aahmes Shrine Mounted Patrol, first in senior drill teams.

## Blue Ribbon Winners

In the Blue Ribbon show Mrs. Gerald Gray was first in the palomino class, on Top Flight; Walt Grondona, third, on Golden Cloud; Geneva Menicucci, fourth on Hi Heels; in English Pleasure class, Corrine Smith, on Bengal Tiger, took a second with Ed Zwierlein, on Navajo, Fifth.

Winners in the matched Western pairs included Joey and Celia, Mrs. Gerald Gray, fourth; Cap and Geronimo, Fred Bemis and Clarence Simons, fourth. In the English mounts little Walleen Grondona took fourth for children under 12, with Windy Smith, first in Forward Seat, and Pat Rukavina, third.

Western Mounts: Children 12 and under: First Celia Gray; second Jim Black, Jr., third, Pat Rukavina, fourth, Walleen Grondona and fifth, Donnie Ford.

A detailed story of the convention is carried in the November issue of the California Horseman.

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# Junior Activities

## JUNIORS TO HOLD IMPORTANT MEETING

All Junior members are urged to be present at the November meeting, scheduled for Saturday, the 12th at 1 p.m. at the clubhouse at the Gus Himmelman home.

According to Mrs. Kay Walling, junior chairman, the meeting is most important and will be full of surprises.

Included on the winter calendar for the group are talks by several guest speakers, with subjects to include the care and upkeep of leather, and diseases of horses, among others.

Plans are also underway to participate in a horsemen's day at school which will include entertainment by the local group for children in the elementary and junior high schools. Details are now being worked out by the school administration and President Fred Anderson of the California State Horsemen's Association, and will be an innovation in the local schools.

## JUNIOR DRILL TEAM AT S.F. DEDICATION

Members of the M.H.A. Junior drill team journeyed to San Francisco recently where they took part in dedicatory ceremonies at the new equitation arena in Golden Gate park.

Invited for the purpose of inspiring enthusiasm among the young people across the bay, the local team responded by giving one of the best exhibitions to date, and, at the conclusion, received a beautiful trophy, presented by Mike Desiano.

Among winners at the Grand National, the the Cow Palace, were Pat Rukavina who was judged first in the hands and seat class. Congratulations, Pat! Bernie Cummings was awarded a third in Western horsemanship. Through error Bernie didn't get credit in the October issue for coming in second in Western equitation at the Castro Valley Wrangler's show. Sorry, Bernie, we didn't mean to slight you.

Another winner at the Cow Palace was little Walleen Grondona, M.H.A. Junior mascot, who won a seventh in hands and seat. Mighty good for a little 5-year-old!

## JUNIOR HAY SEED HOP TO BE HELD NOV. 19

Members of the Concord Flying Horsemen will be special guests of the M.H.A. Juniors at a gala party November 19.

Termed the Hay Seed Hop, the affair will be held in the Administration Building in Redwood Regional park. A barn dance, games, prizes and refreshments are included on the evening's program.

Members of the Junior association will be admitted by membership card only. Guest tickets will be 25 cents.

## Attention All Juniors!

Next Regular Business Meeting  
Clubhouse at  
Gus Himmelman Home  
Saturday, November 12  
1:00 P.M.

## JOHNNIE CURRIE FETES JUNIORS AT HAYRIDE

Johnnie Curry is a popular person as far as the M.H.A. Juniors are concerned for he played host at a hayride for the group on Friday, October 28. It was a balmy moonlight night, made to order, and the fun included singing as they jaunted along on their way to a big wiener roast in Redwood Regional park. In addition there were salads made by the mothers, and cakes donated by Mrs. Herb Lombardi.

Johnnie has also offered the Juniors the use of his ring, with parent fathers volunteering to fence and light it. Plans call for winter classes in horsemanship and practice for relay races, pole bending and drilling.

A special thank you to Miss Graham who has let the Juniors use her ring during the past Summer and who made it possible for them to win their 16 trophies, by providing a place for them to drill. Thanks again, Miss Graham. You've been swell!

## JUNIORS TO SEE MOVIES AT DECEMBER MEETING

Announcement has been made that the December 10 meeting of the M.H.A. Juniors will be held in the Redwood Heights school auditorium with an educational movie as a feature of the evening. Similar meetings, with pictures, are planned during the coming months.

A regular business meeting will precede the showing of the films. Parents of members are urged to be present.

### Wildwood Stables

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## SKYLINE RANCH

Nestled among the outstanding ranches in the hills, overlooking Oakland and the entire Bay area, we find a new one, the beautiful and spacious Skyline Ranch.

Owned by Stanley Cosca, the ranch is under the personal supervision of Jimmie Black, well-known to very horseman in this locality. Walter Leatham designed and planned the ranch, and directed the building program, with the comfort and convenience of both horse and rider ever in mind. So successful was the result that it is already being heralded as the most complete, and modern establishment of its kind in this section of the state.

Located at the intersection of Skyline Boulevard and Redwood Road, the stable has boarding facilities for 50 horses. Individual stalls are 10x12 feet, each equipped with its own feed rack, grain bin and water bucket.

### Indoor Ring

An indoor lighted ring is situated in the center of the large barn, along with rest rooms, saddling paddocks, wash racks and a dressing and shower room. All alleys inside the barn are hard surfaced, with overhead lights and ventilation. Doors have been constructed to allow hay deliveries and such to be made with a minimum of effort. Exercise paddocks have been built out of doors, with ample room for all horses.

Jack Katen and Owen Martin, two cheerful and capable young men, are assisting Jimmie and you will find the barn spic and span at all times. They occupy a two-room cottage on the ranch grounds. Mrs. Ethel Colbert, known to many horse people, grooms horses exclusively, and has also been provided with a comfortable cottage on the grounds.

### Headquarters For Posse

Skyline Ranch is the official headquarters for the Alameda County Sheriff's posse, approximately 20 members boarding their horses there at the present time. The posse has built its own clubrooms in the barn for informal meetings and get-togethers.

Other features of the spacious ranch grounds include a blacksmith shop, under the supervision of Carl Hansen, and a complete modern saddle shop operated by Earl Nanninga, who is carrying a full line of Western equipment, and specializing in custom-built saddles. Earl also has a two-room cottage at the ranch.

### Restaurant Opens Nov. 11

Opening November 11 is an up-to-date restaurant in charge of Lorenza Stefani. Modern in every detail, it promises to be a popular rendezvous for riders and guests. According to present plans, breakfasts and lunches will be served, as well as short orders and steaks.

One of the most outstanding features of the ranch is the large outdoor 100x250 foot arena. Large floodlights have been installed. Bucking horse shoots, barriers and corrals, behind the shoots, have been designed to put on a regular rodeo, with an announcing stand at one end of the field, and plenty of room for portable bleachers. There is also an abundance of parking space. The ring will be available for rental for horse shows, rodeos or drills, upon approval by the management.

Rounding out the grandeur of Skyline Ranch are the two identical ranch type three-bedroom basalite homes occupied by the Cosca and Black families. Modern in every detail, the homes are joined by a large outdoor living area overlooking the entire ranch. Here Stanley, with his wife, Florence, and his two daughters, Loretta and Joyce, and Jimmie and Tiny Black, and their two sons, Jimmie Jr., and Billy, can not only participate in all of the ranch activities but have a beautiful view of the entire surroundings at all times as well.

### Landscaping Underway

A full program of landscaping is in progress, with shrubbery and ivy being planted around the homes and barns. A row of trees will line the highway. All roads within the ranch are being surfaced and graveled for the safety of the horse and rider.

According to Stan and Jimmie, they will cater to horse boarding, and training. Jim will also specialize in the buying and selling of horses for discriminating horsemen, the breaking of horses to suit the individual, and the breaking and training of trick and high school horses. Trailers also may be rented.

The Skyline trio, Jimmie and Scotty Black and Loretta Cosca, will headquarter at the ranch where they can be contacted for acts of trick and fancy riding as well as speciality acts which are a definite highlight of rodeos and horse shows.

### Plan Grand Opening

"We are planning a gala opening in the very near future, weather permitting", said Stan and Jim as they conducted your reporter on a tour of inspection. "However, the place is now open to the public and we invite all of our friends to come in and get acquainted with our new home".

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# THROUGH THE OPEN GATE

To the Editor:—

Senior horsemen and showmen take notice!

Here are a few notes about the horse-show that the M.H.A. Juniors put on Oct. 2 that I think the seniors should know.

First, not one of these youngsters (all under 17 years) had ever held a similar position before, yet everything went long without a hitch! It had been planned in advance and all of the seniors stood back and watched, to help if needed.

Publicity was done by Barbara Isham and as a result there are many entries of fine horses. Don Bjorensen, as manager, and his crew really whipped things into shape and the show started right on time. Bernie Cummings as ring master had a busy time keeping events coming in, and assisting the judges. It would have done any seasoned announcer good to have heard Ronnie Dunniway!

Miriam McDonald and Carol De Meo as arm band clerks were so busy they wore out a couple of senior helpers during registration but they came out even at the end of the day. Carol Casgriff worked hard taking tickets and making change. The ring clerks, Jeanne Smith, Janet Phillips and Phoebe Brown, with a few helping hands, enjoyed giving out the many beautiful ribbons and trophies. Phoebe, as president, made a nice little speech of appreciation during the show.

You should have seen the ring crew work. Jumps to be put up, taken down and all of the rest of the scurrying around it takes.

I hope that this give you seniors an idea of what went on. I'm sorry to say that not many of you had the privilege of seeing our boys and girls in action. Even at that they made a nice profit to put in their growing treasury.

Yes, of course, we as parents are proud, but you people who belong to this group as seniors should also be proud and show these youngsters you are really supporting their efforts. Also let Kay Walling know that you are behind her too—you bet she has worked hard.

I'd just like to see any other group do a better job than these boys and girls have done. All I've got to say is that you, as seniors, had better look to your laurels because these youngsters are really on the ball. You had better be in their helping them or they are liable to leave you way behind.

Mrs. Onalee Phillips.

May we, who participated in the recent Concord-Mt. Diablo Trail ride, give a word of warning to anyone planning to participate in next years ride.

First, Leon Wells, the General Chairman of this years ride, told us, **after the ride**, that the 150 lb. minimum was to discourage the flat saddle riders. So think twice before going into training if you happen to be a flat saddle rider.

Secondly, if you happen to have what you consider a well mannered mount and are sure of a perfect score in this respect—watch out for the judge—he may have different ideas as to what is meant by manners. On this ride horses were penalized on manners because the judges disapproved of the poor horsemanship of the rider. In the exact words of judge Dr. Willis Woodward of Modesto, "you and your horse are judged together and your poor horsemanship will be deducted from manners on your horse."

This statement was made regarding three riders that galloped their horses up hill. In spite of the fact that there was a horsemanship trophy, where these points should have been deducted, they were deducted from manners.

The free usage of points on "manners" made it possible for a lame horse to win over a sound horse. The lame horse belonging to one of the judges!

In the third place if you think you can check up on the judges score sheets—forget it — in this instance the originals were burned the same night the awards were made, or so we were told by Leon Wells. We had to content ourselves with looking at copies of what we hoped to be correct, and which lacked the authenticity of even the judges signatures!!!

Two of the riders had to carry weights to make up the required number of pounds. At the end of the ride, judge Joe Hallett said to the riders, "did you carry those weights up and back, why didn't you hide them somewhere and pick them up on the way back?" This remark was hardly a proper one to be made by a judge.

While we disapproved of the judges, we were told that one can't fight chicanery. Perhaps we can't win against it but we can fight, and fight we will to try and make it possible for a person that goes to the trouble of training his horse and paying a large entry fee to receive a just and fair decision.

Hayward—Margarete E. Phelps  
Oakland—Tedda Byler  
Pittsburg—Gloria Thomas

# "Stall"-ing Around

## With the Lari-ettes

The Lari-ettes won the blue ribbon and a beautiful trophy for the best women's working group at the convention in Sacramento.

It was a big time for the group, and they received many nice compliments on their new blue shirts. Their trophy room was decorated in blue and white and they had many visitors to admire their many trophies and to relax in their outdoor furniture.

Results of several recent shows are as follows:

Geneva Menicucci, fourth in palomino class at sacramento, and second in the same class at Castro Valley, riding High Heels.

Margaret Rukavina, second in the breeding class in Madera and third in the same class at Sacramento. Norma and Gene Burton, first, second, third and fourth in the hunter class at Madera; first in the breeding class and two first and two thirds in the hunter class at Watsonville; and first, third and fifth in jumpers at Placer-ville.

Joan Munson and Cindy Lou took second at Watsonville in the trail class. Ruby Welch, on Ribbon, took first in the pinto class and second in the trail class at Stockton.

Congratulations to Fred Anderson, new president of the California State Horsemen's association.

The annual hallowe'en dance was a big success and everyone enjoyed a lot of fun.

## At the Piedmont

Even the horses at the Piedmont Stables are holding their heads at a proud angle these days. The reason? The new paint job that has recently been completed around the entire place and many compliments are being given to Bill and Virginia Patten over the face-lifting operation. It really looks nice, folks. Why not drop in and see us?

Among our boarders are Mabel and Mitch Robins newlyweds who are busy receiving felicitations from their friends.

New boarders at the Piedmont include Charles Ruiz, Joan Campbell and Mr. and Mrs. Weislander. Hope they all like us as much as we like them.

Bill and Virginia spent several days at the state convention at Sacramento and while it is still too early to give details, there is a big possibility that Bill did himself and the Piedmont proud in the team and calf roping. Don't forget to tell us when you find out all about it, Bill.

## don & ann

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### BEST TO THE WEST

(Member of MHA)

## Aahmes Shrine Mounted Patrol

One of the big events of the year for all California horsemen was the California State Horsemen's Association Convention at Sacramento, October 13, 14, 15 and 16.

Captain Fred Bemis got the horses off to an early start on the morning of the 12th. Five patrol couples also left on Wednesday, picknicked enroute and arrived early at the Fair Grounds, where they worked hard the rest of the day and part of the next, decorating the barn and tack rooms. The results were very gratifying.

On Thursday evening the color guard consisting of Fred Bemis, Si and Jack Simons and Floyd Jacobs did an outstanding job in the grand entry opening the first Horse Show. Later in the show three blue ribbon winners in the matched pair class also gave an outstanding performance. Fred Bemis riding "Cap" and Si Simons riding "Geronimo" placed fourth in this event.

Friday afternoon, in the pole bending eliminations, Frank Kelly riding "Sir Butch" placed in the top ten, but was nosed out in the finals on Saturday night.

The four man ring spearing team, Fred Bemis, Dave Jones, Heber Brown and Jerry Jacobs, had rough going in the contest on Friday afternoon but did a superb job in the finals on Sunday when they placed third.

The drill team put on a flawless, thrilling performance of its precision drill in the arena on Friday night. In the final analysis they were judged the best mounted drill team in the state, for which they were awarded a beautiful trophy.

In the huge parade on Saturday the patrol was judged the best silver mounted unit.

Congratulations are due Captain Fred Bemis who is also the drill master and general manager of the patrol and his unit for outstanding achievement in having a champion team for the second consecutive year.

Congratulations are also due Fred E. Anderson, a drill team member, on his election to the presidency of the California State Horsemen's Association.

The patrol acknowledges and appreciates a pleasant visit from Gov. Earl Warren and other celebrities during its stay in Sacramento.

The convention proved to be very successful in every way to the patrol, most interesting and highly enjoyable and the group is already looking forward to next year's convention at Palm Springs.

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## JUNIORS WELCOME ROSALIE COX

The Juniors have a new member, a most important addition to their ranks. She is Rosalie Cox, 14, who recently received a membership in the organization for the remainder of this year as well as 1950 as a gift from the group.

The big reason why the Juniors wanted Rosalie as one of them is because she is vitally interested in the same thing they are—horses. However, due to ill health at the present time and the fact that she has to spend her days in bed, Rosalie has to take her enthusiasm out in other ways than in riding and romping. It's tough to stay in bed and the Juniors know it—so they are going to do all they can to let her know she is not forgotten, even though she can't be present at their meetings.

However, Rosalie has one outstanding talent that she uses to occupy her time. She loves to draw, and her pictures invariably turn out to be horses. What she needs now are things to use as she works, such as magazines, books and pictures showing horses that she can copy. Members of the Junior association have volunteered to pick these up and deliver them to the Cox home if anyone has anything they think she will enjoy. If you have anything won't you call Phoebe Brown or Mrs. Walling? They will see that she gets the material.

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